

## **Early Learning Plan Community Outreach Meeting Summary** **Spokane**

*Note: This is intended as a high-level “snapshot” of the conversation from the meeting. More detailed information was captured at the meeting and will be incorporated into the planning process.*

**Thursday, November 12**

**7:30 to 9 p.m.**

YWCA

930 N. Monroe, Spokane

Hosted by Spokane County United Way, Community-Minded Enterprises and the Inland Northwest Alliance for Early Learning

Attending: Dr. Bette Hyde, Department of Early Learning

- What is the business group involvement?
- Advisory group – what is the connection and contribution to the plan?
- Will family home child care providers be involved in a mixed delivery system?
- Professional development – the biggest difference was when teachers were offered extra scholarships and release time.
- Improve equity around the state—match resources available on the west side with the east side (build on existing partnerships in each community).
- Build in supports for families.
- Parent education is the missing piece.
- We need a common language between pre-K and K-12 system to help get people on the same page.
- If everybody gets it, then why are things such a mess? The state not “synchronized.”
- There is concern with pilot projects that the money is going to go away.
- Need to work on full-year, consistent care for kids, such as when parents lose subsidy eligibility.
- Will the QRIS project be available to all?
- We need to meet where they are with early learning knowledge, especially stay-at-home moms.

- Accountability is needed for unlicensed care – Craig’s List, newspaper advertising.
- Public awareness is important, especially education on licensed child care.
- OSPI and DEL need to offer incentives grants.
- Improve compensation: higher degree doesn’t equal more money.
- Improve subsidy issues, such as notifying provider when parent is notified of changes.
- How can we increase funding for at-risk populations?
- Increase community partnerships, such as with libraries.
- Improve math/science focus in early learning programs.
- There is unbalanced funding for higher education and what early learning professions receive.
- Educate legislators on where the money needs to go—to early learning.